

In conclusion we would say the first part—General Symptomatology—and the sections on dementia præcox and manic-depressive insanity, are most excellent and fully justify the existence of the work, rendering as they do the teachings of Kraepelin and the German ideas accessible to English-reading alienists, and we think no library in this special branch of medicine can be complete without either it or its German counterpart.

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DIE OTITISCHEN ERKRANKUNGEN DES HIRNS, DES HIRNHAÜTE UND DER BLUTLEITEN. Von Dr. OTTO KÖRNER, Ao. Professor der Medecin, Director der Klinik und Poliklinik für Ohren und Kehlkopfkranke in Rostock. Mit einem vorwort von ERNST VON BERGMANN. Dritte Auflage. J. F. Bergmann. Wiesbaden, 1902.

This work covers in a very comprehensive and critical manner a field of medicine which is of the greatest importance and interest to the neurologist. It is true that he shares this field in common with, though perhaps to a somewhat less active degree, the otologist and yet our present knowledge of the conditions arising in the cranial cavity is so deficient that the combined efforts of both specialists are needed for its furtherance. As a contribution in this direction the work of Körner, whose authority is recognized the world over, must assume a high rank.

The book is an enlargement and revision of the second edition and contains much additional matter gained from a wider clinical experience and riper knowledge as well as from an exhaustive study of the literature of the last few years.

The first part is devoted to a consideration of uncomplicated disease of the meninges. Serous meningitis is recognized as occurring frequently in association with otitis and mastoid disease, and Körner even claims that it is often combined with an encephalitis. In treating otitis cases, where such complication is suspected, he urges that after operating upon the primary focus in the ear the surgeon should wait before proceeding to the dura in order to give the meningitis serosa time to subside, as it often does, and also thereby making possible a differential diagnosis from other forms of meningitis and intracranial disease.

In the section devoted to sinus disease Körner calls attention to the greater frequency of involvement of the right side in sinus thrombosis and extra-dural abscess, and explains this by the anatomical relations of the parts. Osteophlebitis or phlebitis of the veins of the mastoid process causing septic infection of the sinus, is a condition which he, first, really described and called to the attention of the medical world, and in this edition he maintains his views regarding its nature and substantiates them by additional clinical data. He also makes a distinction between pyemic and septic infection as it occurs through the medium of the sinuses.

In his operative procedure he recommends following the advice of Lane of exposing the dura of the middle and posterior cranial cavities when pus or cholesteatomata are present in the mastoid, instead of relying on symptoms for the diagnosis of intracranial conditions. He has never seen any harmful result from this step, and he has twice discovered and relieved unsuspected extra-dural abscesses. His consideration of the subject of brain abscess is very thorough and most instructive. In this condition he expresses the opinion that the chisel used vigorously undoubtedly causes a latent abscess to become active, or to rupture into the ventricles; a sinus thrombus to become loosened from the sinus walls and a localised meningitis to become diffuse,—facts which it were well to bear in mind.

Of especial interest to the neurologist from a diagnostic standpoint

are his conclusions as to the value of the lumbar puncture. He classifies the findings as follows: First, when a very much clouded fluid containing pus cells and bacteria is obtained, it means diffuse purulent leptomeningitis. An exception is in those rare cases where the suppuration is limited to a part of the vertebral canal, and which is not in relation to the meningitis of the brain. Second, a lightly clouded fluid containing bacteria can signify a diffuse or a circumscribed meningitis. An exception was a case of Briegers, in which an abscess in the temporal lobe led by a fistula into the ventricle and thus caused the lumbar puncture fluid to be purulent with the disastrous consequence that no operation was undertaken because of the presence of meningitis. He cites also a case by Wolff and Ruprecht where the puncture caused a similar faulty diagnosis.

The bibliography on each subject is very full and complete up to October, 1901. There is page reference to every case or author mentioned in the text, thereby doubly enhancing the value of this excellent treatise.

It certainly deserves translation into English, that it may serve as a guide to all who have to deal with cranial disease.

I. STRAUSS (New York).